

*callum albidum circumscriptum dilatata; peristomate expanso, intus albo-labiato, margine basali prope columellam dente magno, prominente, instructo.*

Diam. 5, altit.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mill.

From Honduras (Dyson).

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Descriptions of Owls presumed to be undescribed.* By JOHN CASSIN.

*Ephialtes sagittatus*, nobis. Adult? Entire plumage above rufous brown, inclining to chestnut; plumage of the head with small pale spots encircled with black, bordering the shafts of the feathers, and near the tips assuming a hastate or sagittate form.

Plumage of the back with every feather having about three to five spots of the same description, the arrow-headed shape and black border distinct and well-defined, some of the spots nearly white; every feather also with very fine transverse lines, and minutely dotted or freckled with black.

Wing-coverts with pale, nearly white, sagittate spots encircled with black. Internal coverts of the wings pale fawn yellow, more or less spotted with black, and with their tips broadly terminated with black, which forms a conspicuous bar on the inferior surface of the wing. Outer edge of scapulars nearly white with black spots. External webs of primaries with alternate bands of pale and darker rufous brown; internal webs much darker, with nearly black bands alternating with others slightly paler, which (the paler) are mottled with black towards the extremities of the quills. Exposed ends of the secondaries rufous brown, with large pale spots on the shafts, approaching the sagittate form, with their black borders extending into transverse narrow bands. First primary shortest, fifth and sixth longest.

Feathers encircling the eyes, and the long bristle-like feathers at the base of the bill dark chestnut-brown, the latter freckled with black; between the eye and the cavity of the ear whitish, with transverse lines, and broadly tipped with deep rufous brown. Feathers of the ruff white at their bases, with narrow transverse lines of deep rufous, but presenting a broad subterminal band of pure white, every feather terminated with a semicircular or lunular band of bright rufous brown.

Front and superciliary region white, the feathers of the former with their shafts and with some minute marks of very dark brown; superciliary feathers with well-defined tips of nearly black. Shorter (or anterior) feathers of the ear-like tufts white, with minute transverse lines and freckles of rufous brown; longer feathers of the tufts brown on their external and white on their internal webs, transversely lined and tipped with darker brown.

General colour of the under surface of the body very pale rufous and sordid yellowish white, on the breast with every feather having about five to seven very narrow transverse bands more or less di-

stinctly defined, of blackish brown, and minutely and irregularly dotted with the same colour. Abdominal region with the bands less numerous, and many of the feathers having several irregularly shaped, though rather rounded and sagittate spots of nearly black.

Tarsi covered to the toes with pale rufous whitish feathers. Toes naked.

Tail same rufous brown as the back, with alternate bands of darker and paler shades; in some instances the paler band on the external opposite to the darker band on the internal web.

Bill and feet yellow, claws long and slender.

Total length of skin about 10 inches, wing 7, tail  $4\frac{1}{4}$ .

Very young. Upper surface of the head and body pale yellowish and sordid rufous, every feather with several narrow transverse dark lines. Breast and belly darker, with the spots more distinctly rounded and occupying the whole breast and inferior surface.

Wings and tail more fully developed than the other plumage.

*Hab.* India?

One specimen of this species, without label, belongs to the R. voli collection; another, which is that of a young bird, labeled Malacca, has been received from Mr. Edward Wilson, who obtained it in Paris. I am acquainted with no species of *Ephialtes* with which this can readily be confounded, and, in fact, it looks more like Dr. Horsfield's plate of *Strix* (*Phodilus*) *badius*, than any other which I have met with, and is about the same size (as the figure), while in general appearance, particularly in the colouring of the breast and belly, it bears some resemblance to *Strix* (*Lophostrix*) *cristata*, Daud. (*griseata*, Lath.). It is however a true *Ephialtes*, though an aberrant species. The sagittate spots distinguish it, and, as far as I know, are peculiar.

*Ephialtes Watsonii*, nobis. Summit of the head black, with a few very minute pale spots, more numerous on the front and eyebrows. Shorter feathers of the ear-tufts black, others black also, but with their inner webs spotted or mottled with white. A semicircle above the eye extending to the ear-tufts black; rigid feathers at the base of the bill black, with pale grayish terminations; feathers immediately below the eye gray, mottled and broadly tipped with black.

Discal feathers grayish white, many of them speckled, and all tipped with black, presenting a white and black semicollar or ruff on each side of the neck. Plumage of the throat with fine alternate bars of black and nearly white.

Neck above with a well-defined collar, the feathers composing which are strongly fulvous, terminated with white and speckled with black.

Back, rump, tail- and wing-coverts mottled and freckled with grayish white upon a black ground, many of the feathers having about three to five very irregular transverse bands of whitish; on the wing-coverts and back some of the pale marks are almost circular with black centres, others are of irregular form also enclosing centres of black.

External webs of the primaries black, with subquadrate nearly white bars, nearly all of which have black centres, assuming also a



more or less well-defined square form. Internal webs of primaries with alternate bands of different shades of black.

Breast and entire inferior parts pale fulvous, every feather conspicuously marked on the shaft longitudinally with black, and with very irregular transverse bands and irregularly mottled with black; the black markings most numerous and most irregular on the breast. Many of the feathers on the breast with very pale nearly white spots, having somewhat the appearance of being distributed in pairs.

Tail black, with about seven or eight narrow irregular grayish bands, many of which have central lines of black.

Tarsi feathered to the toes, pale fulvous white, mottled with black.

Bill horn-colour at the base, whitish at the tip.

Total length (of skin) about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing 7, tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$ .

Younger? Plumage above paler, with small spots and minute freckles of grayish white, scarcely assuming the appearance of bands.

Breast with the dark markings predominating, and tending to form a broad pectoral band; lower parts of the body bright fulvous with black marks.

*Hab.* South America.

This species bears some resemblance to *Ephialtes atricapilla* (Natt.), Temm. Pl. Col. 145, but is much larger, and has only one nuchal collar. The general colour above is also much darker; the fulvous colouring of the inferior surface of the body is also a striking difference.

One specimen of this species in the Rivoli collection is labeled "Orenoque," and another in the collection of the Academy is probably from South America.

I have named this bird in honor of Gavin Watson, M.D., of this city, a gentleman of extensive knowledge of natural history, much attached to the study of the American Raptores, and an especial admirer of the Owls.

*Syrnium albugularis*, nobis. Entire plumage above deep umber-brown, every feather more or less finely vermiculated and minutely spotted with black; on the head also transversely lined and spotted with pure white, especially in the region of the occiput, where upon some feathers the white spots are disposed regularly in pairs upon the opposite webs.

Feathers of the back and rump having also three or four irregular transverse lines, and irregularly spotted with pale brownish nearly white. Scapulars broadly barred and edged with white.

Lesser wing-coverts with irregular lines of pale brownish, and with large white marks on their external webs. Primaries with their external webs nearly black, with about eight to twelve square spots or bands of fulvous. Internal webs of primaries plain black or with obscure bands.

Eyebrow white; a large semicircular segment of white covering the jaws and throat, interrupted at the base of the under mandible by a few brownish feathers; many of those white feathers conspicuously tipped with black, forming a well-defined semicircular discal collar or ruff.

Breast with a broad band of the same umber-brown as the back;

every feather irregularly lined and minutely spotted with black ; many of the feathers also with subrounded spots of pure white, occasionally disposed in pairs.

Abdomen, flanks and under tail-coverts fulvous, every feather marked longitudinally with black, and about one to three transverse marks of the same colour, assuming a partially lyrate form ; these marks less distinct on the flanks.

Tail umber-brown, with about eight to ten irregular pale brownish white bars ; under surface paler.

Plumage of the tarsi reaching nearly to the toes, pale reddish fulvous ; tibial plumage darker, inclining to ferruginous ; toes naked.

Bill yellow.

Total length about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing 8, tail  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Hab.* South America.

Two specimens of this bird in the Rivoli collection are without label ; a third, obtained in Paris by Mr. Edward Wilson, is labeled "South America."

I am acquainted with no species which in any considerable degree resembles the bird now described, nor have I met with a description applicable to it.

*Syrnium virgatum*, nobis. Plumage of the entire upper surface dark umber-brown, every feather having about three to five irregular transverse narrow bands of sordid yellowish white, most numerous and distinct on the head and rump. Upper tail-coverts banded with pure white.

Scapulars obliquely banded on their outer webs with fulvous, on their inner webs more or less regularly banded with yellowish white. Wing-coverts with broader bands, and also mottled and pointed at their tips with whitish.

Primaries very dark brown, nearly black, external webs with about seven square spots of grayish white, some of which enclose central spots of dark brown, and all more or less dotted and mottled with the same colour. These square spots less regular on the first and second primaries ; all the primaries with broad pale tips. Internal webs with regular bands of dark and paler brownish black.

General colour of the face same as the head and back ; superciliary plumage and discal circle nearly white, more or less spotted and lined with deep brown.

Breast deep umber-brown tinged with fulvous, every feather having about three very irregular transverse bands, which are broader and paler than those of the back, though of the same character ; on the lower part of the breast these bands are nearly white.

Abdomen pale fulvous, every feather with a longitudinal stripe of black, and with one or two transverse irregular bands at the tip of the same colour ; ventral region and under tail-coverts pale fulvous nearly white, with a trace of blackish spots.

Tarsi dark fulvous, mottled with brown ; feathered to the toes.

Tail black, tipped with white, and having about five bands, which are brownish on the outer and white on the inner webs.

Bill horn-colour at the base, pale yellow at the tip ; toes quite naked.



Total length about 14 inches, wing  $10\frac{1}{2}$ , tail 6.

Younger or different sex? Pale bands on the superior surface of the body broader, those on the wing-coverts, primaries and secondaries enclosing tolerably regular bands of black. Scapulars with their outer webs fulvous and pure white.

Spots on the outer webs of the primaries and bands on the tail nearly white; secondaries broadly tipped with white, each terminal spot enclosing a segment of dark brown.

Entire inferior surface of the body fulvous, feathers having longitudinal stripes only of dark brown; under tail-coverts nearly pure white.

Younger? Bands on the back and rump almost obsolete, having the appearance of spots only. Scapulars and some of the wing-coverts broadly edged with pure white.

Entire under surface of the body nearly white, with but a tinge of fulvous, the feathers having longitudinal bands only of deep brown. Under tail-coverts and tarsi nearly white.

Total length about 14 inches, wing  $9\frac{1}{2}$ , tail 6.

*Hab.* South America.

This is a bird of which I have frequently seen specimens, and am surprised that I have not succeeded in finding a description of it. I am acquainted with no species intimately resembling it.—*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, vol. iv. p. 121.

#### *Descriptions of new Marine Shells.* By T. A. CONRAD.

The following new and interesting shells are from the coasts of Lower California and Peru :—

##### SOLECARDIA, *Con.*

Shell bivalve, equivalve; hinge with two diverging cardinal teeth, and a linear oblique cartilage-pit between; cardinal plate profoundly grooved on each side of the teeth; muscular impressions 2, small, rounded, remote from the margins, particularly from the base; pallial impression entire.

*S. eburnea.* Oblong-oval, equilateral, ventricose, thin; extremities nearly equally rounded; basal margin arched; valves white, shining, minutely shagreened, towards the base minutely rugose, with fine impressed radiating lines; concentric lines towards the base finely waved, indenting the margin. 1 2-10: 8-10.

In this singular bivalve the pallial impression shows no junction with the adductor impressions, but joins the extremities of the cardinal plate. The muscular impressions are as distinct on the exterior as on the interior.

##### PETRICOLA.

*P. sinuosa.* Subtriangular; inflated anteriorly; profoundly sinuous posteriorly; ribs radiating, prominent, acute, except towards the anterior margin, where they are replaced by closely-arranged lines; basal margin profoundly sinuous; within brown, cavity of umbo white; cardinal teeth prominent, two in one valve, and one broad one in the other. 8-10: 6-10.